

Nationwide Shortage of TB (Tuberculosis) Skin Test Antigen, Purified Protein Derivative (PPD) Solution

Background

A nationwide shortage of PPD solution has been reported. Reserving current supplies for testing those who are at highest risk for latent TB infection (LTBI) and progression to TB disease is needed until supplies normalize.

To inform the community and assist healthcare providers in meeting the needs of their patients, the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County is sharing recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health TB Program.

Testing Recommendations

Until supplies normalize, PPD solution (either Tubersol or Aplisol) will be reserved for use only for contact evaluation in children five and under, and in those rare situations where it is impossible to draw blood on a client.

- Contacts over the age of five years will be tested using an interferon gamma release assay (IGRA) blood test.
- Testing for purposes other than contact evaluation will be by IGRA or deferred until the supply of PPD has improved.
- Children receiving immunizations in preparation for school admission can be screened using a risk assessment, tuberculin skin test (TST) or IGRA.

Methods used to diagnose LTBI

Two methods are available to diagnose LTBI: the traditional Mantoux tuberculin skin test (TST) and interferon gamma release assays (IGRA). IGRAs are whole-blood tests that have been approved by the FDA. Currently there are two available, QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube test (QFT-GIT) and T-SPOT®.TB test.

Basic TB Screening and Testing Information

A standardized TB risk assessment form has been used for many years in Florida. The risk assessment form screens for both symptoms of TB and environmental or medical risk factors.

A TB risk assessment will determine if a risk for acquiring TB infection or progression to active TB disease is present and if further testing with a TST or IGRA is needed.

- If TB symptoms or other risk factors are not present, further testing is not necessary.
- When a history of a prior positive TST or IGRA is reported, a repeat TST or IGRA is not needed.

For information on TB testing at the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County please contact the TB Program at (407) 665-3243.



Florida Department of Health in
Seminole County
400 W. Airport Blvd.
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For information on the current CDC Health Advisory go to the following link:

<http://emergency.cdc.gov/HAN/han00355.asp>

For further information regarding TB testing, diagnosis and treatment please go to the following link at the CDC:

<http://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/basics/default.htm>